



# NIES AT ITS BEST

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)  
 Veterinary Services (VS)  
 National Import Export Services (NIES)

Animal Products Permitting and Negotiation Services (APPNS)

September 2017 Quarterly Edition, Volume 3

## Our Mission

- Safeguard the health of domestic livestock and poultry by inspecting and quarantining animals and animal products to mitigate animal disease risk through risk assessments and sound science
- Facilitate trade, promote safe movement, negotiate science-based import and export requirements, and collaborate with other agencies and departments to remove technical barriers to trade
- Serve as the preeminent resource for safeguarding the nation's food supply from agricultural select agents and toxins
- Cooperate and collaborate with international animal health standard setting organizations to develop science-based health measures for safe trade
- Utilize science-based performance measures and a focus on consistent, standard practices carried out by a responsive workforce

## What Is An Animal Product?

Any material derived from the body of an animal. Examples are fat, meat, skin, organs, blood, milk, eggs, and lesser known products such as rennet, gelatin, and rendered animal meals.



## Contact Us

For **permit applications or status requests** related to animal products or by-products, please contact us via email at [animalproducts.application@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:animalproducts.application@aphis.usda.gov). For faster assistance, remember to include permit or application numbers in your email.

For **questions** related to animal products or by-products, please email us at [asknies.products@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:asknies.products@aphis.usda.gov). We will respond within 48 business hours.

If email is not convenient, please feel free to contact us using the information below:

4700 River Road, Unit 40  
 Riverdale, MD 20737  
**Fax:** (301) 734-8226  
**Tel:** (301) 851-3300, Option 1

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# HOT TOPICS

## NIES Removes Restrictions on Certain Animal Feed/Bedding Products Containing Hay or Straw



NIES recently revised the import policy regarding animal feed or bedding containing hay or straw. NIES regulates the importation of such hay or straw to mitigate against the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease and exotic ticks. Recently, multiple shipments of pet bedding/nesting products (pictured at left) made of hay/straw were refused entry for non-compliance with VS import requirements. The pet bedding was for use in small pet type animals, such as guinea pigs and bunnies. NIES collaborated with industry and other APHIS units regarding the manufacturing process, potential risk mitigations, and original intent of regulating these types of products. Because the intent

of the import regulation was to prevent disease introduction to livestock or poultry, which isn't applicable to these commodities, NIES revised the import policy to allow the unrestricted entry of fully-finished, retail-sale-ready, household pet products that contain hay or straw. NIES will continue to restrict the importation of products containing hay or straw for use in livestock or poultry, and/or bulk hay or straw for animal feeding or bedding.

## APHIS Recognizes OIE Risk Designations for BSE

On August 8, 2017, APHIS Announced Concurrence with OIE Risk Designations for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). This concurrence updates the list of regions recognized by APHIS as negligible, controlled, or undetermined risk for BSE. Please see the APHIS newsroom post for more details: [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/federal-register-posts/sa\\_by\\_date/sa-2017/bse-risk-designations](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/federal-register-posts/sa_by_date/sa-2017/bse-risk-designations)

## NIES Supports APHIS' Safety and Health Focus

Congratulations to Dr. Romina Hennig, APPNS Export Products VMO, on her selection for the Designated Agency Safety and Health Official Award as a member of the headquarters Safety and Health Committee! Committee membership included representatives from across APHIS, who collaborated to orchestrate the first *Stand Up For Safety Week* event in headquarters; coordinated with local and national organizations to provide safety-related training opportunities; facilitated discussion with APHIS leaders about the importance of safety in the APHIS mission; and published their first annual Safety and Health Newsletter.



# WORK AROUND THE WORLD

## Gaining Market Access for U.S. Agricultural Commodities

### **Ecuador Accepts Proposed Health Certificate for Poultry/Poultry Products**

After several months of negotiations on animal disease and food safety issues with APHIS and FSIS, Ecuador accepted the proposed letterhead certificate for export of U.S. poultry meat and poultry products for human consumption to Ecuador. The certification allows for regionalization of the United States during highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and Newcastle disease outbreaks, limiting restrictions to affected areas.

### **Argentina Agrees to Letterhead Certificate for U.S. Pork and Pork Products**

On August 11, Argentina agreed to a USDA-proposed letterhead certificate for pork and pork products exported from the United States. The opening of this market, which was closed for the past 25 years, follows extensive discussions between APHIS, the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and Argentina's regulatory officials on issues related to food safety and animal health. The main animal health-related obstacles were involved *Trichinella* mitigation and concerns of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) virus. This agreement removes all PRRS-related conditions on the export of U.S. pork meat and pork products to Argentina, in concurrence with the recently adopted OIE Terrestrial Code Chapter on PRRS.

### **Final Report to OIE declaring U.S. Freedom from Avian Influenza**

On August 11, the United States reached the date on which freedom from avian influenza could be officially declared to the World Animal Health Organization (OIE). APHIS NIES is currently working with more than 50 countries to remove restrictions placed on poultry or poultry products due to the most recent outbreak of avian influenza in six states. These activities include correspondence to trading partners, providing summary reports and requesting the removal of bans, and making updates to the FSIS export library for countries which allow self-restriction/removal.

### **APHIS Facilitates Animal By-products Exports to the United Kingdom**

August 16-17, APHIS VS and International Services (IS), along with FAS London, held meetings with United Kingdom (UK) officials in London. The purpose of the meeting was to improve UK access for U.S. exporters of animal by-products. The first day of meetings with the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Food Standards Agency (FSA) allowed APHIS to better understand UK import requirements, to better facilitate market access for U.S. products. The meetings also allowed APHIS to gain insight into the status of several issues related to wider European Union (EU) legislation under consideration by the EU, which could affect commodities such as used cooking oil, tallow, materials for the production of gelatin and collagen for human consumption, and other animal byproducts.

### **NIES Obtains Release On Hold Pet Food**

On August 14, with the assistance of the FAS office in Germany, NIES reached agreement with a German border inspection post (BIP) to obtain release of six consignments of pet food, including shipments destined for the Czech Republic and Sweden. After NIES and FAS convinced BIP authorities that they had imposed an inaccurate interpretation of the EU pet food legislation, BPI released the consignments.

### **Poland Agrees to Accept EU-level Harmonized Animal By-Product Certificates**

On August 16, Poland agreed to continue to accept animal byproduct certificates harmonized at the EU-level. Poland previously indicated that consignments so certified would be rejected due to their interpretation of recent EU regulation amendments related to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). Poland had interpreted that amendment to require supplementary problematic SRM certification for animal byproducts. With the assistance of the FAS office in Warsaw, NIES negotiated Poland's continued acceptance of animal by-products without the supplemental certification.



## **Ecuador Accepts Certificate for U.S. Salted Hides**

On July 20, Ecuador accepted the proposed model certificate for export of U.S. bovine salted hides. The negotiations began after Ecuador notified APHIS that Ecuadorian importers were interested in importing U.S. bovine hides and skins. The proposal from Ecuador initially included several requirements that APHIS could not endorse. IS Post in Quito facilitated communication of counterproposals between NIES and Ecuadorian officials, to reach the agreement.

## **Australia Confirms No Certification Needed for Certain Lactose and Lactose-derived Products**

On July 17, Australia informed NIES that lactose and lactose derivatives for in-vitro and in-vivo laboratory animal use does not require government certification for export to Australia. This development will simplify those exports, as U.S exporters of imported technical dairy products will no longer need to obtain forwarding certification from the country of origin.

## **NIES Meets with Pet Food and Feed Industries**

On July 12 and 13, APPNS staff met with the Pet Food Institute's International Trade Subcommittee (PFI ITSC) and American Feed Industries Association (AFIA), respectively, to discuss trade and market access issues. With the Chinese market opening for beef for human consumption, these industries are interested in market access for bovine origin pet food/pet food ingredients, bovine blood products, and bovine bones for the production of gelatin. The APPNS staff meets with PFI ITSC and AFIA regularly to exchange of information and review industry priorities for trade in pet food and animal feed, and their ingredients, world-wide.

## **APHIS hosts Chinese Delegation for AI Audit**

July 5-17, a delegation from China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) visited the United States from for the purpose of auditing the U.S. Avian Influenza (AI) system. APHIS hosted the delegation and facilitated their participation in a 3 day poultry emergency response course conducted by the University of Delaware's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources as well as visits to the Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network in Gainesville, Georgia; the National Centers for Animal Health in Ames, Iowa; and breeding, production, and slaughter facilities in Arkansas. The delegation also met with representatives from APHIS, the Food Safety and Inspection Service, and State animal health officials from Georgia, Arkansas, and Iowa. APHIS represented the United States at the audit entrance and exit meetings. During the exit meeting, APHIS provided a comprehensive review of the U.S. AI surveillance and response, and presented a proposed HPAI protocol for China's consideration. The delegation expressed their appreciation for the detailed, transparent information, and complimented the close cooperation between U.S. Federal, State, industry and academic organizations.

## **APHIS Opens Markets in Kyrgyzstan**

On June 30, APHIS reached agreement with the State Inspectorate on Veterinary and Phytosanitary Security of Kyrgyzstan for the use of 17 veterinary certificates for the export of U.S. live animals, animal genetics, and certain animal byproducts. Kyrgyzstan recently joined the EAU (with Russia, Belrus, Kazakhstan, and Armenia) and, without this agreement, would have required EAU harmonized certificates which could not have been endorsed. The annual value of this agreement is ~ \$50M.

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## **APHIS Confirms Retention of Japanese Market for Dairy Products in November 2017**

APHIS finalized certification agreements with Japan to allow exports of dairy products to continue when Japan implements new requirements on November 1, 2017. The agreements were reached after detailed consultation between APHIS and Japanese animal health authorities over the last 2 years. During this time, APHIS was able to negotiate changes to Japan's draft regulations to facilitate U.S. exports and decrease the scope of products for which certification will be required. Both countries also agreed to bilateral certificates allowing exports to continue after the November 1, 2017 deadline. This success avoided the requirement for certification of retort processed (canned) and extruded pet foods, as well as lactose and lactose derivatives, thereby decreasing costs and logistical impediments to exporters of products for which certificates will not be required. APHIS also reached agreement with Japan that dairy products from Puerto Rico could be exported under the same requirements as dairy products from the 50 United States. Previously, Japan had indicated that they did not recognize Puerto Rico as being free of foot and mouth disease (FMD), but after APHIS provided details regarding Puerto Rico's FMD status, surveillance, and control programs, Japan agreed to consider Puerto Rico, for the purposes of dairy products, Puas free of FMD.



## Do I need a permit?

### ATTENTION ALL CUSTOMERS!

In the very near future, NIES will be retiring the ePermits system in favor of CARPOL, a newer, more customer friendly system. However, to experience all the benefits and features of the new system, we strongly recommend that you become e-Authenticated as early as possible. The new system requires customers to be a Level-2 subscriber in order to retrieve even the simplest of items, such as finished permits. **Please don't delay; become eAuthenticated today!**

To apply for a USDA e-Authentication account, please visit our website at :

[www.eauth.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.usda.gov)



Application Fees to import an animal or animal byproduct into the United States are as follows:

## ***“But, They’re Holding My Shipment.....”***

In striving to make our website more user friendly for our customers, and streamline the On Hold process, NIES has issued updated guidance on our website. You can view the guidance at the following link:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-permits/ct\\_ah\\_permits\\_onhold](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-permits/ct_ah_permits_onhold)

Application	Fee
New Application	\$150
Renewal Application	\$97
On-Hold Applications	\$565
Amendments	\$75
Fetal Bovine Permits	\$512

*\*\*Payment for services rendered is considered a processing fee (non-refundable) and does not guarantee permit approval or shipment release\*\**